

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PORT O 02348 142057Z
ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-08 PM-05 DOTE-00 L-03 CPR-03
SS-15 /049 W

-----091369 142109Z /64

P 142047Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2808
INFO OSD/ISA/FMRA
COGARD/ONSOD WASHDC
COMNAVELEXSYSCOM WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 02348

ARA/CAR FOR AMBASSADOR FOX

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, TD
SUBJECT: OMEGA TRINIDAD

1. WITHIN THE PAST WEEK THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAS TURNED DOWN A REQUEST BY ROBERT BLACK, OMEGA STATION MANAGER, FOR THE DUTY-FREE PURCHASE OF LIQUOR AND CIGARETTES AND ALSO HAS REFUSED TO ALLOW THE SALE BY A DEPARTING OMEGA ENGINEER (ROBERT BROOKS) OF HIS PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE FREE OF DUTY AND TAXES (REQUEST FOR THE LATTER HAD GONE TO MINEXTAFF LAST MAY). THE REASON GIVEN IN BOTH CASES WAS THAT OMEGA PERSONNEL ARE "NOT ENTITLED TO EXEMPTION FROM PAYMENT OF DUTY AND TAXES." THE FOREGOING ARE THE FIRST TWO CASES WE ARE AWARE OF IN WHICH OMEGA PERSONNEL HAVE BEEN CONSIDERED "NOT ENTITLED."

2. WHEN EMBOFF QUESTIONED MIN EXTAFF WORKING-LEVEL OFFICER MOST FAMILIAR WITH OMEGA MATTERS (OSUNA) ABOUT THE DISAPPROVALS, SHE REPLIED THAT IT HAD BEEN DECIDED WITHIN THE MINISTRY (SHE WOULD NOT SAY WHEN) THAT OMEGA STATION PERSONNEL WOULD NO LONGER ENJOY DUTY-FREE STATUS. THE STATION
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PORT O 02348 142057Z

ITSELF, HOWEVER, COULD CONTINUE TO IMPORT DUTY-FREE WHATEVER IT NEEDED TO CARRY OUT ITS OPERATIONS. WHEN EMBOFF SAID IT WAS HIS UNDERSTANDING THAT GOTT HAD AGREED INFORMALLY TO ALLOW PRE-DECEMBER 31, 1977, RIGHTS AND PRIVILEGES FOR OMEGA PERSONNEL TO CONTINUE UNTIL THE OVERALL MATTER HAD BEEN RESOLVED, OSUNA DID NOT DISAGREE, STATING ONLY THAT A DECISION HAD BEEN TAKEN BY THE MINISTRY TO HANDLE

THE ISSUE IN THE MANNER SHE HAD DESCRIBED AND POINTING OUT THAT OUR OWN DRAFT OMEGA AGREEMENT DID NOT PROVIDE FOR DUTY-FREE PRIVILEGES FOR OMEGA PERSONNEL BEYOND SIX MONTHS OF THEIR ARRIVAL.

3. CONCERNING THE OMEGA NEGOTIATIONS THEMSELVES, OSUNA REPEATED WHAT SHE HAD SAID EARLIER TO EMBOFF, I.E., THAT MATTERS WERE ON TRACK, THAT WE WOULD BE HEARING FROM THE GOTT SOON, AND THAT SHE EXPECTED WE WOULD BE SATISFIED WITH THE GOTT RESPONSE. SHE INDICATED THAT AMBASSADOR FOX MIGHT BE APPROACHED SOON ON THE ISSUE IN WASHINGTON, BUT DID NOT SAY HOW OR BY WHOM.

4. COMMENT. WHILE WE CONSIDER A BASIS EXISTS FOR RAISING THIS MATTER OF OMEGA PERSONNEL PRIVILEGES DURING CURRENT INTERIM TO A HIGHER LEVEL IN THE GOTT, WE CONSIDER IT INAPPROPRIATE TO DO SO AT LEAST UNTIL A RESPONSE IS RECEIVED REGARDING THE FUTURE STATUS OF THIS STATION. UNLESS INSTRUCTED TO THE CONTRARY WE WILL AVOID GETTING INTO A DEBATE ON THE MATTER WHILE THE GOTT IS DELIBERATING ITS POSITION ON THE BROADER AND MORE IMPORTANT ISSUE.O'MAHONY

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PERSONNEL, DUTY FREE ENTRY, OMEGA STATION
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 14 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978PORTO02348
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780332-0486
Format: TEL
From: PORT OF SPAIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780867/aaaacedb.tel
Line Count: 83
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 4aee0d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 jun 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1748613
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OMEGA TRINIDAD
TAGS: MARR, ETRD, TD
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/4aee0d64-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014